PRAYER

Fajr	5.22
Zuhar	12.15
Asr	4.19
Maghreb	5.53
Isha	7.09

Starting time in Karachi

REFLECTIONS

"BEWARE, MY SON, THAT AVARICE AND GREED MAY NOT DRIVE YOU TOWARDS DESTRUCTION AND DAMNATION."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

78AH427

KARACHI: A young man was shot dead in Orangi Town on Saturday. The Pirabad police identified the victim as Mohammed Aslam, 30. —Staff Reporter

Victims of demolition drives along nullahs decry neglect, demand promised resettlement

• Affectees say despite court orders, rent payments not been made since Dec 2023 • Allege govt officials demand bribe for issuing cheques, moving files ahead • Plots pledged by govt years ago still not provided, they lament • Argue construction cost calculated by govt insufficient to rebuild even one room

By Waqas Ali Ranjha

KARACHI: Victims of the demolition drives along the Gujjar, Orangi and Mehmoodabad nullahs have spoken out about the harsh and uncertain conditions they have been forced to live in since their homes were razed in 2021 and lamented that despite repeated promises by the authorities, no practical steps have been taken for their rehabilitation.

Speaking at a press conference organised by the Karachi Bachao Tehreek (KBT) at the Karachi Press Club on Saturday, the affectees and the KBT members accused the Sindh government and relevant authorities of "corruption and deliberate neglect" and having no intention of resettling the thousands of displaced families.

Muhamad Saleem, an elderly resident of the city, pointed towards the pile of property papers and official documents that he had been carrying with him. He said that he had made countless visits to the offices of assistant commissioners, the deputy commissioner, the commissioner as well as those of the local government officials. "But despite these visits and repeated assurances by the officials, I got nothing," he said.

He shared that he had built his house, which was razed during the demolition drive along the Mehmoodabad nullah, with the money that he had earned from abroad after working hard for many years. "Now I'm struggling to meet the expenses of my family. For God's sake, have some mercy on us," he said with a trembling voice.

Other affected individuals, including women, narrated a similar ordeal and highlighted that they are living under an uncertain future for themselves and their children. They requested the provincial authorities, especially the judiciary, to take up the matter and provide them with what they had been promised.

Speaking on the occasion, Convenor KBT Khurram Ali shared the details of the issue. He said the urban flooding that struck Karachi in 2020 was "wrongly blamed on katchi abadis" (informal settlements), as a result of which, around 9,000 homes were demolished, leaving over 50,000 people homeless.

Then, after protests by the affected families, the Supreme Court announced that the affected families would be provided with plots and construction costs and that until their rehabilitation, every family would be given cheques for paying rent where they lived.

However, he said that the cheques were issued only until Dec 2023 and that too because the KBT lawyer had filed a contempt of court case in which the court had summoned the provincial authorities and found them guilty. But for the last year and a half, the case has not been heard and because of that the rent amount has not been released since then, he added.

Moreover, he said, the court had ordered that each family be allotted an 80 square yard plot and construction funds but the Sindh government is delaying implementation. "Only a small amount for construction was released earlier this year, which is not even enough to build one room," he said, adding that plots are now promised only after 2027.

The court had also appointed Additional Commissioner II Zunira Jalil as a focal person to register complaints of the affected families. But after her transfer, which was done "deliberately", thousands of verified complaints were dismissed without verification, he said. "If these complaints were false, why are no officers being held responsible for verifying them?" he asked.

He alleged that "corrupt officials and "party representatives" were demanding bribes in exchange for releasing construction money and rent cheques. "In Orangi Town, some groups demanded Rs200,000 from each family for their files to move. When the issue came to light, payments were stopped, and the so-called investigation only gave officials more time to extort money," he claimed and said that no inquiry reports have been made public so far.

Demands

The KBT and the affectees demanded that the government immediately release Rs30,000 for each family per month as rent until resettlement, including all pending payments from the past months. As for construction money, each affected family should be provided with Rs3 million so that they can rebuild their homes in line with current building costs. The over 2,000 dismissed complaints be registered again under a transparent process.

They further demanded that an independent and impartial committee, including civil society representatives, affected individuals and human rights organisations, be appointed to oversee the registration and resettlement process. The government must issue a clear and unchangeable schedule under which all plots are allotted within 90 days and alternative land is provided without delay.

Warning of protest

They warned that if their demands are not met within seven days, they will begin strong protests and sit-ins outside the CM House and the Supreme Court Registry in the city.

Five acres of KMC land reclaimed

KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has reclaimed five acres of prime commercial land in Orangi Town worth over Rs1bn, the civic body said on Saturday.

According to the KMC, the operation was carried out in line with the directives of Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab, as part of efforts to protect municipal assets and ensure that public land is used strictly in accordance with the law.

The land had originally been leased for the establishment of a hospital. However, it was being misused for unauthorised purposes, including the operation of schools, auditoriums, canteens and other commercial activities, in violation of the lease agreement, the statement said.

KMC said it had previously initiated the cancellation of more than 500 plots under the Orangi Township Project as part of the mayor's campaign to recover encroached and misused municipal properties. Following departmental reviews, formal cancellation of the five-acre plot was approved.

A joint operation was later conducted by KMC's Orangi Township Department with support from the district administration and law enforcement agencies, under the supervision of Project Director Faisal Rizvi. —Staff Reporter

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NEW PRINCE PROPERTIES

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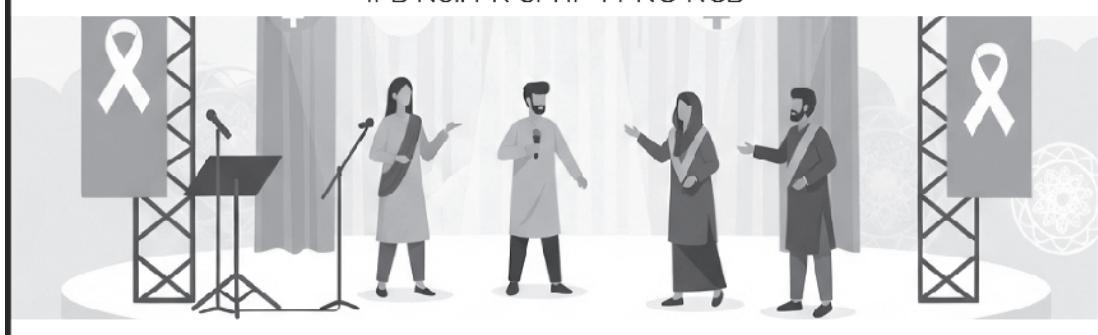
SINDH PEOPLES HOUSING FOR FLOOD AFFECTEES (SPHF)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
COMMUNITY THEATRE ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

IFB No.: PK-SPHF-14-NC-NCB



1. The Sindh People's Housing for Flood Affectees (SPHF) has received the funding from Government of Sindh towards the cost of Sindh Flood Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project (SFEHRP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the allocated fund will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Community Theatre on Gender Based Violence. Bidding is open to all bidders, under Sindh Public Procurement Rules 2010 (Amended 2019).
2. The Sindh People's Housing for Flood Affectees (SPHF) being the implementing agency of SFEHRP, now invites sealed bids for the Procurement of Community Theatre on Gender Based Violence from eligible service providers having atleast 03 years of previous experience to provide these types of non-consulting services.
3. The required services will include following:
   i. Theatre script.
   ii. Rehearsal performances for feedback and approval from SPHF.
   iii. Covered sitting arrangement for 150 participants for theatre performance in 16 districts of Sindh Province.
   iv. Install and manage the sound system for the event.
   v. Stage, Backdrop and other standees for each performance.
   vi. Produce at least 100 high-resolution pictures and short video clips from events in each district.
   vii. Arrange any other necessary logistics.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents from the company's website www.sphf.gos.pk, for inquiries email at cpo@sphf.gos.pk.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of 60 days after Bid closing and shall be delivered to address given below on or before 17th November 2025 at 11:00 am, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
6. The bidders are requested to give their best and final prices as no negotiations are expected.

INF/KRY/3622/25

KHALID MEHMOOD SHAIKH
Chief Executive Officer – SPHF
Bungalow # 20 Block 7/8, Modern Cooperative Housing Society, Tipu Sultan Road Karachi.

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